

MEETING MINUTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin September 28, 2023

A regular meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin was held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

EMA GSA Committee Members Present: Brad Joos, Brett Marymee, and Elizabeth Orona

EMA GSA Alternate Committee Members Present: Meighan Diethofer (Acting Alternate) and Steve Jordan

Member Agency Staff Present (in-person): Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Amber Thompson, and Matt Young

Others Present (in-person): Doug Circle, Mary Heyden, Gay Infanti, and Kevin Merrill

Others Present (remote): Steve Anderson, Rick Hoffman, Matthew Scudato, Brett Stroud, Robby Tetelepta, Kristin Worthley, and an unannounced member of the public

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and asked Mr. Buelow to call roll. Three EMA GSA Committee Members and one Acting Alternate Committee Member were present providing a quorum. One Alternate Committee Member was also present.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Doug Circle, on behalf of the Santa Ynez Water Group, made public comments. Mr. Buelow announced that a public comment was received by email prior to the meeting and is included in the meeting packet under Agenda Item No. 6.

4. Review and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2023

The minutes of the EMA GSA Committee meeting on August 24, 2023, were presented for GSA Committee approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to approve the minutes of August 24, 2023, as presented. GSA Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed 3-0-1 by voice vote, with Acting Alternate Committee Member Meighan Diethofer abstaining.

5. Review and Consider Requests for EMA GSA Written Verifications under Executive Order N-7-22 revised under Executive Order N-5-23 in the EMA for the following parcels:

a. APN 141-050-007 - Kelly (Mattei Road)

Mr. Buelow presented the GSI Water Solutions Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) for APN: 141-050-007, Mattei Road (WP EH-LUA-23-000024), dated September 22, 2023. Discussion followed and public comment was received.

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos made a MOTION to issue a well verification letter for APN 141-050-007, Mattei Road (WP EH-LUA-23-000024). GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

b. APN 137-450-011 - Palma (Dove Meadow Road)

Mr. Buelow presented the GSI Water Solutions Review of New Well Application in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Eastern Management Area (EMA) for APN: 141-450-011, Mattei Road (WP 0005484), dated September 25, 2023. Discussion followed and public comment was received.

EMA GSA Committee Member Elizabeth Orona made a MOTION to issue a well verification letter for APN 141-450-011, Mattei Road (WP 0005484). GSA Committee Member Brad Joos seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Receive Update on SGMA Governance

Mr. Matt Young reported that the EMA GSA Member Agencies staff shared a draft JPA with the Santa Ynez Water Group for their review and to provide comments. Discussion followed.

Committee Member Brad Joos questioned if any entity was stalling the process. Committee Member Elizabeth Orona emphasized the need for the JPA to settle all issues in combination including to establish participants, cost sharing, voting, and liability not just participants. Alternate Committee Member Steve Jordan suggested that the GSA Committee may need to give direction to the staff. Committee Member Brett Marymee suggested setting a time limit for staff to return with draft JPA for consideration.

Public comment was received. Ms. Gay Infanti questioned why the EMA CAG was not provided the draft JPA along with the Santa Ynez Water Group. Mr. Young responded that

the Santa Ynez Water Group's request for the JPA draft document was considered a Public Records Request and was properly handled as such. Ms. Infanti requested that the EMA CAG be involved in the JPA creation process to represent all water users in the EMA.

Discussion followed regarding engaging the EMA CAG on this issue. Committee Member Brad Joos directed staff to post the JPA draft document on the website for public review. Committee Member Brett Marymee directed staff to schedule an EMA CAG meeting. Mr. Buelow responded that the EMA CAG has a standing meeting scheduled for October 18, 2023 at 3:00 pm so he will follow up with CAG members to coordinate that meeting.

7. Receive Update on SGMA Implementation Grant Award

Mr. Buelow reported that the Santa Ynez River Valley Basin was awarded \$5,534,000 from Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGM Grant Program's SGMA Implementation, Round 2 and provided the DWR's award list showing the SGMA implementation components and recommended awards. He reported that Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District will receive the DWR Grant Agreement and will execute it on behalf of the three GSAs. He advised that this grant does not have a matching funds requirement but does require the GSAs to spend money on implementation efforts and submit reimbursement requests to receive the grant funds and anticipates a retention of funds held by DWR as was the process for the last grant. The grant period is through July 2026. He thanked the City of Lompoc for their tremendous involvement and help with the grant application to secure funding for 100% of the requested amount to benefit the basin.

Discussion followed and public comment was received.

8. Discuss EMA Future Cost-Sharing Agreement and Funding of Future EMA Projects

Mr. Young reported that member agencies' staff is working to develop a draft Cost Share Agreement for each individual task and is making progress.

Discussion followed. Committee Member Brett Marymee and Committee Member Elizabeth Orona requested staff to develop a rough draft budget, rough draft time-phase budget and a reserve share estimate for discussion during the November EMA GSA Committee meeting. Committee Member Brad Joos responded that a JPA should be in place first and expressed concern with getting distracted with funding and a budget. Steve Anderson, legal counsel for Improvement District No. 1, reported that there could be legal concerns with cost share/loaning funds to the GSA without having a JPA in place. Brett Stroud, legal counsel for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, agreed with Mr. Anderson but added that the SGMA law does grant the GSA certain powers without it needing to be a JPA.

9. Discuss EMA Well Registration and Groundwater Reporting Program

Mr. Buelow reported that information about many wells located in the EMA is unknown. Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District has information on the wells within their district boundaries. Mr. Young reported that Santa Barbara County issues well

permits and has records of where wells are located but does not update property owner information after the permit is issued. Discussion followed and public comment was received. Mr. Kevin Merrill offered to help member agencies' staff with the well registration effort as he was involved in the same effort for Los Alamos.

10. Next EMA GSA Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM, at the Santa Ynez CSD Community Room

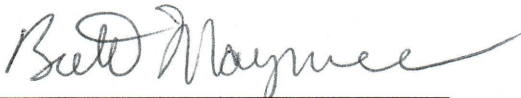
EMA GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee announced the next EMA GSA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Ynez Community Services District Community Room, 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, CA.

11. EMA GSA Committee Reports and Requests for Future Agenda Items

EMA GSA Committee Member Brad Joos requested that the Agenda Items No. 6, 7, 8, and 9 from this meeting remain on future agendas as standing items.

12. Adjournment

GSA Committee Chair Brett Marymee adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.



Brett Marymee, Chairman



William J. Buelow, Secretary